

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants submit two replacement drawing sheets including Figs. 16A, 16 B, 17A and 17B. Reference character θ_7 has been removed from Fig. 16A and reference character θ_9 has been removed from Fig. 17A.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-66 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 8, 10-40, 43-47, 49, 54 and 57-62 have been withdrawn from consideration. With this amendment, claim 6 has been canceled and claims 63-66 have been added.

1. Formalities

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the election of Species I (claims 1-7, 9, 41, 42, 48, 50-53, 55 and 60).

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for confirming receipt of the certified copies of the priority document.

2. Objections to the Specification, Title and Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the Specification for minor typographical errors. Applicants submit that the modifications to the Specification obviate the objection.

The Examiner has objected to the Title. Applicants submit that the modifications to the Title obviate the objection.

The Examiner has objected to the Drawings because reference characters θ₇ and θ₉ in Figs. 16A and 17A, respectively, are not described in the Specification. Applicants have removed these reference characters from Figs. 16A and 17A. Applicants request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

3. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 42, 48, 50, 52, 55 and 56 for various minor typographical errors. Applicants submit that the modifications to these claims obviate the objection.

4. Claim Rejections Under §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirose *et al.* (US 4,987,279) [“Hirose”]. For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites an input unit “wherein the information displayed on the display indicates a function of the switch pressing unit.” Hirose discloses that its display may be changed to display a state of a load connected to a terminal or a state of a contact or that the display may change based on a predetermined program (col. 4, lines 37-45). At most, this disclosure may indicate that a feedback from the load or contact is displayed, not the function of the switch itself. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Hirose does not disclose or suggest the claimed displaying of information indicating the function of the switch as set forth in claim 1.

Because claim 9 recites a feature similar to that given in claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 9 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Applicants submit that claim 2, 5 and 7 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Applicants have canceled claim 6.

The Examiner has rejected claims 41, 42, 48 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohishi *et al.* (US 5,742,341) [“Ohishi”]. For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 41 recites a capturing apparatus “wherein, when one of the plurality of switches of the switch unit is pressed, the pressed switch functions under a condition that the corresponding display screen is inclined.” The Examiner contends that Fig. 11 of Ohishi discloses an operating portion 11 with buttons 11a-11h that corresponds to the claimed switch unit with a plurality of switches and that Fig. 11 also discloses a monitor screen 3 that corresponds to the claimed display screen.

Applicants submit, however, that Ohishi does not disclose or suggest that, when one of the buttons is pressed, the button functions under a condition corresponding to the inclination of the monitor screen. In fact, Fig. 11 clearly indicates that pressing the buttons 11a-11h on operating panel 11 and the inclination of the monitor screen 3 are unrelated. Accordingly, Ohishi does not disclose or suggest that, “when one of the plurality of switches of the switch unit is pressed, the pressed switch functions under a condition that the corresponding display screen is inclined” as set forth in claim 41.

Because claim 42 recites a feature similar to that given above with respect to claim 41, Applicants submit that claim 42 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 41.

Applicants submit that claims 48 and 50 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 41.

The Examiner has rejected claims 52, 53, 55 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson (US 6,154,210) [“Anderson”]. For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 52 recites a capturing apparatus for capturing an image that comprises “a plurality of switches arranged to form at least one pair, ... wherein said at least one pair of switches are mechanical switches.” The Examiner contends that Fig. 9D of Anderson discloses switches 910A-910C that correspond to the claimed switches.

In a non-limiting embodiment of the present Specification, switches 220 are activated by the displacement of switch pressing portions 210 when the switch pressing portions 210 are pressed. See at least page 23, lines 19-34 of the Specification and Figs. 3A and 3B. Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would clearly recognize these are mechanical (physical) switches.

In contrast, Anderson discloses a touch screen 800 that includes switches 910A-D that are activated by pressing an overly toggle area 920 (col. 12, lines 35-45). Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would clearly understand that the switches in Anderson are electronic switches, not mechanical switches. Accordingly, Anderson does not disclose or suggest the claimed mechanical switches as set forth in claim 52.

Applicant submits that claims 53, 55 and 56 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 52.

5. Claim Rejection Under §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirose in view of Swayze (US 6,519,003) [“Swayze”]. For at least the following reason, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Because Swayze does not cure the deficient teachings of Hirose given above with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 3 and 4 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claim 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohishi in view of Hirose. For at least the following reason, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Because Hirose does not cure the deficient teaching of Ohishi given above with respect to claim 41, Applicants submit that claim 51 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 41.

6. Rejoinder of Claims

Because claim 8 depends on claim 1, claims 43-47 and 49 depend on claim 41 and claims 54 and 57-62 depend on claim 52, Applicants request that these claims be rejoined based on their dependency to their respective base claims. Moreover, because claim 1 has been deemed generic and is allowable for the reasons set forth above, joinder of all the non-elected claims is requested.

7. New Claims

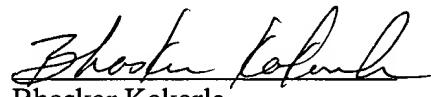
With this amendment, Applicants add claims 63-66. Applicants submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies, as well as the features set forth therein.

8. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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